

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRASIL 01277 212200Z

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6140

S E C R E T BRASILIA 1277

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT INFO RIO DE JANEIRO

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BRAZIL

REF: STATE 42623

1. FRAGOSO, CHIEF OF CEREMONIAL AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, HAS INFORMED US THAT PROPOSED DATES ARE ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY, AND THAT WASHINGTON'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IS "BASICALLY ALRIGHT IN PRINCIPLE."

EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF SCHEDULE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. FRAGOSO IS NEW ON THE JOB AND VOLUNTEERED TO DCM THAT HE HAS NOT AS YET HAD A CHANCE TO READ UP ON EARLIER PLANNING FOR CARTER VISIT. WHEN HE DOES, HE MAY WELL RAISE QUESTION OF ADDING CALL ON SUPREME FEDERAL TRIBUNAL, ABOUT WHICH HIS PREDECESSOR, SPEAKING FOR GOB, EXPRESSED HIMSELF VERY STRONGLY. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, EMBASSY BELIEVES FIFTEEN MINUTE CALL AT STF WOULD BE WELL WORTH THE TIME. TO EXCLUDE STF WOULD NOT ONLY CONSTITUTE A SNUB TO JUDICIARY BRANCH, BUT ALSO WOULD INDICATE INDIFFERENCE CONCERNING FUNCTIONING OF ORGANS WHICH HAVE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY FOR STRENGTHENING RULE OF LAW AND GUARDING AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN BRAZIL (77 EMBTEL 8540). EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING

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DEPARRTMENT'S VIEWS AS TO POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSION OF STAY IN BRASILIA TO PERMIT THIS ADDITIONAL CALL, IN CASE FRAGOSO RAISES QUESTION.

3. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ARRANGE A TEN MINUTE MEETING AT EMBASSY WITH AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND OUR BRAZILIAN STAFF IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. EMBASSY BUILDING IS CLOSE TO PLANALTO PALACE AS WELL AS CONGRESS,

AND BRIEF STOP COULD BE ARRANGED ENROUTE TO OR FROM THESE APPOINTMENTS.

4. WE NOTE ITINERARY PROPOSED REFTEL MAKES NO MENTION OF PRESS CONFERENCE. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE BRIEF CONFERENCE WOULD BE VALUABLE USE OF PRESIDENT'S TIME, GIVEN TREMENDOUS PRESS INTEREST IN PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND OPPORTUNITIES IT AFFORDS TO PRESENT US VIEWS ON BILATERAL AND WORLD ISSUES DIRECTLY. HOWEVER, IF PRESIDENT IS NOT PLANNING PRESS CONFERENCES AT ANY OF HIS STOPS, WE WILL USE THIS TO EXPLAIN EXCLUSION IN RESPONSE TO ANTICIPATED INQUIRIES.

5. STATE 42019 CALLS FOR PREPARATION OF GUEST LISTS BY MARCH 15 "ON ASSUMPTION REPRESENTATION EVENT IS SCHEDULED." REFTEL MAKES NO MENTION OF ONE. PLEASE CONFIRM THAT WASHINGTON HAS DROPPED IDEA OF US-HOSTED RECEPTION.

6. EMBASSY HAD HOPED (77 EMBTEL 10081) THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR PRESIDENT TO VISIT SAO PAULO, A CITY OF GREATER SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE TO US THAN RIO. SAO PAULO STOP WOULD ALSO OFFER LOGICAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MEETING WITH CARDINAL ARNS. HOWEVER, WE ARE AWARE THAT TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS MAY PRECLUDE SAO PAULO STOP (ONLY AIRPORT WHICH COULD HANDLE PRESIDENT'S JET IS NINETY MINUTES OUT OF TOWN). ASSUMING INTEREST IN SEEING ARNS STILL EXISTS, WE FORESEE POSSIBLE ECCLESIASTICAL PROTOCOLARY PROBLEMS WITH AN EFFORT TO ARRANGE A RIO MEETING. RESIDENT CARDINAL IN RIO

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IS MORE CONSERVATIVE IN HIS OUTLOOK ON HUMAN RIGHTS THAN ARNS AND MIGHT NOT TAKE KINDLY TO THE IDEA.

7. RE PARAGRAPH 6(C) REFTEL, FOLLOWING ARE DRIVING TIMES REQUESTED:
AIR BASE TO PRESIDENT'S OFFICE: 20 MINUTES
CONGRESS TO HOTEL NACIONAL: 5 MINUTES
HOTEL NACIONAL TO ALVORADA PALACE: 15 MINUTES
WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT CONGRESS WILL BE IN SESSION AT TIME OF VISIT. ARENA NATIONAL DIRECTORAE WILL MEET FEB 23 TO SET DATES OF PARTY CONVENTION AT WHICH FIGUEIREDO WILL BE OFFICIALLY NOMINATED AS CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY. ALL ARENA CONGRESSMEN WOULD BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. WE DOUBT THAT WITH PROPOSED VISIT DATES IN HAND, GEISEL WOULD PERMIT CONFLICT, BUT IN THAT UNLIKELY EVENT, WILL NOTIFY IMMEDIATELY.

8. RIO IS ANSWERING OTHER QUESTIONS REFTEL BY SEPTEL.
CRIMMINS

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NNN

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